

Oregon measure shows Amendment 2's influence

By **Louis Agullar**/Gazette Telegraph

A controversial measure approved last week by voters in an Oregon farming town had its roots in Colorado Springs.

The measure bans laws that would protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. It also bans the town from "promoting or approving" of homosexuality, said Neal Knight, the mayor of Cornelius. The town has a population of 6,400 and is about 20 miles west of Portland.

The measure was patterned after Amendment 2, a measure authored by Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values. It, too, bans laws prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals based on their sexual orientation.

Emboldened by Amendment 2's 53 percent-47 percent margin of victory in Colo-

rado in November, the "No Special Rights Committee" of Cornelius took to the streets with its similar measure. Its work paid off: 62 percent of the town's voters approved the measure.

"It's a great victory," said Knight, who supported the measure. "We just don't want homosexuals to be given the same rights as minorities."

Groups in at least seven states have adapted the tactics of Colorado for Family Values and, to some extent, shaped their measures from Amendment 2's wording.

In Oregon, the group Oregon Citizens Alliance is working on a statewide ballot initiative to ban gay rights laws, and its supporters have targeted 25 cities and eight counties in which they hope to push local measures like the one in Cornelius.

The head of the group, Lon Mabon, was

the main force behind Measure 9, a statewide ballot initiative that was defeated in November. That measure branded homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse."

Mabon has removed such wording from the new statewide and local measures because he said critics "distorted it as bigoted."

Mabon said the connection between his group and Colorado for Family Values has been "informal."

"I've had several phone conversations with Tony Marco and Mr. Tebedo during the election," he said, referring to the Colorado group's co-founder, Marco, and its executive director, Kevin Tebedo.

"But now we just get their newsletter," Mabon said. "There is no big connection like our critics say."

TERRITORY DAYS

Old West festival opens Saturday

The blockades go up Saturday on West Colorado Avenue as Old Colorado City turns into a romping, stomping street rendezvous.

During Territory Days, running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Monday, Colorado Avenue from 24th to 27th streets will be lined with arts-and-crafts and food booths, exhibits and family entertainments.

You could end up face to face with a des-

perado or the hangman, or you could end up in the "Territory Hoosegow" — all in fun.

Three groups of Native Americans in full tribal dress will perform authentic dances this year. And children can enjoy games, midway rides, jugglers, magicians, an old-time medicine show and the popular Hawkquest Birds of Prey exhibit.

The Old Colorado City Lions Club and H

Bar H Ranch will offer pony rides on the corner of 28th and West Colorado Avenue. Vintage race cars from the Pikes Peak Hill Climb will be on display, and motorcycle demonstrations are scheduled.

Sponsors for Territory Days are KCS 102FM Radio, KKTV, the Gazette Telegraph, Colorado Interstate Gas and Browning-Ferris Industries.

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